

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Please CANCEL claims 1-66 in their entirety.

67. (Once Amended) A mold for producing [[as]] an optical component, comprising:

- a first resin flow path having a first cross sectional area;
- a second resin flow path which locates in continuation to the first resin flow path in a resin flow direction and has a second cross section area smaller than the first cross sectional area; and
- an optical functional section forming section which locates in continuation to the second resin flow path in a resin flow direction;

wherein the molded optical component comprises a supporting shaft section corresponding to the first resin flow path, a connecting section corresponding to the second resin flow path and an optical functional section corresponding to the optical functional section forming section.

68. (Original) the mold of claim 67, wherein the first resin flow path is shaped to have a portion to form a three-dimensional distinguishing mark on the supporting shaft section.

69. (Original) The mold of claim 67, wherein a flow direction of a resin through the first resin flow path and the second resin flow path is almost a straight line.

70. (Original) The mold of claim 67, wherein a flow direction of a resin on the first resin flow path conforms with that on the second resin flow path and is almost a straight line.

71. (Original) The mold of claim 67, wherein a flow direction of a resin on the first resin flow path is perpendicular to that on the second resin flow path.

72. (Original) The mold of claim 67, wherein the first resin flow path is a runner.

73. (Original) The mold of claim 67, wherein the first resin flow path is a gate.

74. (Original) The mold of claim 67, wherein the first resin flow path is shaped such that the cross sectional form of the supporting shaft section becomes almost a circle.

75. (Original) The mold of claim 67, wherein the first resin flow path is shaped such that the cross sectional form of the supporting shaft section becomes almost a trapezoid.

76. (Original) The mold of claim 67, wherein the first resin flow path is shaped such that the cross sectional form of the supporting shaft section becomes almost a semicircle.

77. (Original) The mold of claim 67, wherein the first resin flow path and the optical component forming section are shaped such that a normal line on a chord section of the semicircle almost agrees with an optical axis on an optical functional surface of the optical functional section.

78. (Original) The mold of claim 67, wherein the first resin flow path is shaped such that a protruded portion is formed on the supporting shaft section.

79. (Original) The mold of claim 67, wherein the first resin flow path is shaped such that a concave portion is formed on the supporting shaft section.

80. (Original) The mold of claim 67, wherein the second resin flow path is shaped such that a stress-concentration portion is formed on the connecting section.

81. (Original) A method of molding an optical component with a mold described in claim 67.

82. (Once Amended) A method of molding an optical component with a mold having plural gates for a cavity corresponding to the optical component, comprising:

filling resin into the cavity ~~thorough~~ through the plural gates, wherein a timing to start filling the resin is different for each of the plural gates.

Please CANCEL claims 83-90 in their entirety.

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